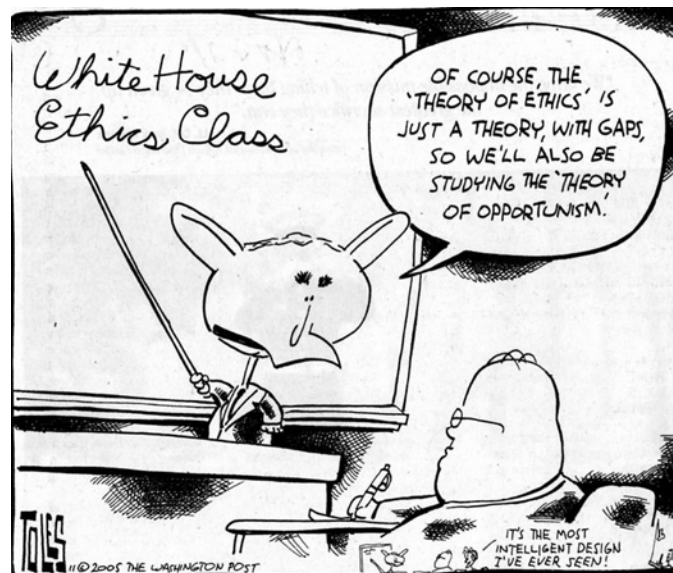


Syllabus  
**PMGT 205**  
**Ethics & Political Management**

Fall 2008  
Thursday 7:10-9:40  
Monroe Hall  
Rm. 353

Robert Fullinwider

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**The secret of life is honesty and fair dealing. If you can fake that, you've got it made.**  
– Groucho Marx

AIMS

This course is an opportunity to think about the ends and values of the vocation you are training for. (I chose the word "vocation" instead of "profession." Is political management a profession or just a craft? What's the difference?) What makes politics a worthy activity? Does it have built-in moral hazards? If so, what can be done about them?

Thinking about these questions raises many others. How do we know what standards to apply to political activity? Do the ends justify the means, or is that idea morally bankrupt? What is the proper perspective to take on your own lives in politics? What is the proper perspective to take on the lives of others?

We will read and discuss several essays and cases about political morality. The point of this reading and discussing is to exercise your imaginations at identifying moral issues in political contexts, at posing the right questions about them, at making distinctions that clarify them, and at crafting arguments to resolve them. Such exercise is vital because there isn't any mechanical formula for neatly settling disagreements about political morality, just as there isn't any for solving problems of political strategy. In each case, perception and judgment are strengthened by practice and experience.

## READINGS

Readings will be drawn from a variety of sources. Some will be available on the course website and some will be available on other websites. All the readings in this course are (1) used by permission, (2) constitute instances of fair use, or (3) exist in the public domain.

## GRADES

Your course grade will be based on —

- class participation [understood as (i) maintaining good class attendance, (ii) contributing to Blackboard-based exchanges and in-class discussions, and (iii) manifesting command of current readings]
- short essays, close readings, and reaction pieces.

Graduate students are expected to do good work. That is why a grade of B- or C+ says that your work is falling below the norm. Because this is so, students often look upon grades of B and B+ as poor grades. They are not. They signify that you are doing the good or very good work expected of you. Grades of A- or A are given not for very good work but for exceptional achievement.



## CLASS SCHEDULE

**Thursday, September 4**

Introduction to the Course and to the Topics

AAPC Code  
Bush Inaugural Addresses  
Alpha & Beta Argue  
Cases of Lying

**Thursday, September 11**

Morality & Politics – What Are They About?

Politics – What's It About?  
Quintus Cicero – Advice on Campaigning  
Morality – What's It About?  
The Case of Fuji the Ferret  
Ingratitude

**Thursday, September 18**

Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire

What Is a Lie and Who Is a Liar? Does Anybody Know?  
The Presidents' Lies?

Thursday, September 25

Truth on the Campaign Trail

Fast & Loose on the Campaign Trail  
Kaloogian's Pictures  
Oberweis's Headlines  
Charges in the Georgia Governor's Race  
George Allen Votes Against Body Armor  
James Walsh Votes Against Stem Cell Research  
The Professionals Speak: Truth & Accuracy Above All?  
Doak - Attack Ads  
Goodman – Survival Guide  
Schlackman & Douglas – The Silent Killer  
A Professional Speaks: I'll Stand By Our Ad  
DCCC Hits Michele Bachmann  
Star-Tribune Slams Ad  
Rahm Emanuel Defends Ad  
A Robo-Call In Indiana

Thursday, October 2

Negatives Are Positive - or Are They?

Stone – Positively Negative  
Mark – Attack Ads Are Good  
Geer – Negative Campaigns Inform

Thursday, October 9

The Moral Currency of Political Arguments

Oh Hypocrisy!  
Dionne on Republicans  
Gingrich No Hypocrite  
Democratic Hypocrites  
Lindberg – Enough is Enough  
Tu Quoque  
Patterico Fumes  
Greenwald Gripes  
LGF Smirks  
Civility Anyone?  
Fair Argument  
Patterico Proposes  
Defining Conservatism – Fairly?  
Defining Liberalism – Fairly?  
Begging the Question  
Schmookler's Puzzlement  
Prager's Puzzlement  
Absolutes  
Poll: Most Americans Reject Absolutes  
Prager – For Absolutes  
Bloom – Against Absolutes

Thursday, October 16

Schemas and Partisanship

Heath & Bendor – When Truth Doesn't Win  
A Lesson in the Psychology of Belief  
Inferring Competence from Faces  
Appearance Matters  
Reality-Based Partisans?

Thursday, October 23

Roles, Duties, and Permissions

"Defending the Murderer" video  
The Henrow Case

Thursday, October 30

Drawing Lines – Hardball v. Dirtyball

Murphy Draws Some Lines  
Galston - Softball, Hardball, and Dirtyball  
Atwater & Anti-Semitism  
Cases – Tom Foley & Leland Olds

Thursday, November 6

The Institutional Defense

The American Seat Case  
Ends & Means  
The Seductive Argument

Thursday, November 13

Changing Incentives

The Campaign Watchdog Case  
Fishkin & Ackerman – Deliberation Day  
Codes Revisited  
AAPC code  
de' ge' pol code  
PRSA code

Thursday, November 20

A Political Life – Its Costs and Rewards

Perspective: Atwater's Last Campaign  
A Good Life in Politics?

Thursday, December 4

Summing Up